

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 15-16, 24-28, 60, and 62-64, 66 and 69-73 are pending.

Applicant has amended Claim 8, without prejudice to any material that may have been removed as a result of the amendment. Support is found throughout the specification, including Claim 8 as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-7, 9, 15-16, 24-28, 60, 62-64, 66 and 69-73 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indication of the allowed claims in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mukai et al. (WO 01/66734).

The Office Action states that Mukai et al teach a 15 residue amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:5) which is 93.5% identical to SEQ ID NO:19.

Applicant has amended Claim 8 by deleting the embodiment of an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:19, without prejudice, solely to advance prosecution.

In light of the claim amendment to Claim 8, and in light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney/agent would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney/agent of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 12, 2010

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